



## THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

### HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 20 2015

Dear Service Member:

You are invited to participate in the 2015 Department of Defense (DoD) Survey of Health Related Behaviors, which we have asked the independent, non-profit RAND Corporation to design, implement, and analyze. This health survey is important to the DoD and the Services, and I would like to strongly encourage you to participate in this web-based survey.

The purpose of this survey is to assess the health related behaviors and lifestyles of military personnel that have the potential to impact readiness. We use data from this survey to improve education, training, treatment, and counseling to support the Services and optimize individual and overall health status and fitness.

To protect Service members' privacy, the 2015 health survey is anonymous. This means we do not ask military members for their name or other personal identifiers on the survey. No one, including DoD, the Services, or our contractors, will link your individual survey responses with your name, other personal identifiers, or military records. We have instructed our contractors to implement procedures to keep the survey anonymous. No one will know who actually filled out the web survey. DoD and the Services have agreed to this condition to protect your privacy to the extent allowed by law, so you can feel comfortable answering the survey questions truthfully and honestly.

Although your participation in the survey is entirely voluntary, I hope you will recognize its importance and find time to sit down and answer these questions about your health. This survey can be completed using a government computer during duty hours or on a home computer with Internet access.

For further information about the survey and instructions for accessing and completing the survey on the Internet, please read the attached RAND Corporation letter and Frequently Asked Questions. Thank you for your continued service to our Country and thank you in advance for your time and assistance in this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Woodson", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jonathan Woodson, M.D.

Attachments:  
As stated